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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

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ARABIAN ALFALFA (*Medicago sativa* var.).

This variety of alfalfa was secured, as the name indicates, in Arabia. It is adapted to very dry, hot climates and long growing seasons. For this reason it is particularly suited for growing in the southwestern portion of the United States. It is not adapted to withstand the winters of the Northern States. This variety commences to grow earlier in the spring and continues growth much later in the autumn than does the ordinary alfalfa. It also recovers and starts to grow more quickly after cutting. For these reasons one and possibly two extra cuttings may be obtained during the course of the long growing season incident to the extreme Southwest. It is necessary, however, to cut each crop when just coming into bloom if the maximum number of cuttings is to be secured. When comparative tests between this and other alfalfas are conducted it is important that the different plots be measured off and marked with labeled stakes. A path 15 inches wide should separate each plot. A guard row of ordinary alfalfa a rod wide should surround the experiment plots to protect them from rabbits, etc. The plots of Arabian alfalfa should be situated on one side, so that they can be mowed when coming into bloom whether the others are ready for cutting or not. The other varieties should be left till they are also coming into bloom before cutting, as otherwise no definite comparison as to the increased number of cuttings can be made. The relative palatability of the different varieties should be determined by observing the preference of various animals for one or more of the sorts under test. A rough diagram of the plots should be made at the time of seeding and notes of each plot recorded during the season.

